

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISTANB 01422 161414Z

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7213

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

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AMCONSUL IZMIR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISTANBUL 1422

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, TU

SUBJ: ISTANBUL JUSTICE PARTY LEADERS COMMENTS ON US-TURKISH RELATIONS

1. SUMMARY: LOCAL JUSTICE PARTY LEADER DISCUSSED PRIMIN DEMIREL'S FAVORABLE REACTION TO US-TURKISH DEFENSE AGREEMENTS BUT WARNED OF REACTION IF US CONGRESS REJECTS DOCUMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. CONGENOFF APRIL 15 CALLED ON ISTANBUL PROVINCIAL JUSTICE PARTY (JP) LEADER NUMAN UZUN, WHO SPOKE AT LENGTH ABOUT US-TURKISH DEFENSE AGREEMENT AND PRIMIN DEMIREL'S REACTION TO IT. ACCORDING TO UZUN, WHO WAS WITH DEMIREL WHEN HE RECEIVED WORD FROM FORMIN CAGLAYANGIL THAT AGREEMENT HAD BEEN SIGNED, PRIMIN WAS EXTREMELY PLEASED AND SAID AGREEMENT WOULD MAKE POSSIBLE NEW ERA OF CLOSE US-TURKISH COOPERATION. DEMIREL REPORTEDLY FELT THAT TURKEY HAD NEGOTIATED A DEFENSE ARRANGEMENT WHICH INSURED TURKEY'S SOVEREIGNTY OVER BASES AND AT SAME TIME MET US NEEDS. UZUN SAID DEMIREL ATTACHED SPECIAL IMPORTANCE TO AGREEMENT SINCE IT DEMONSTRATED THAT THE JP COALITION GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN ABLE TO ACHIEVE WHAT THE REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP) COALITION HAD NOT: RESTORING CLOSE TIES WITH AN IMPORTANT ALLY. HE SAID THAT DEMIREL INTENDS TO USE THIS ACHIEVEMENT AS A TRUMP IN NEXT ELECTION CAMPAIGN. UZUN STATED THAT SINCE DEMIREL BELIEVES THE RPP WILL HAVE GREAT DIFFICULTY FINDING FAULT WITH PROVISIONS OF THE AGREEMENT, PRIMIN WAS CONFIDENT THAT IT WOULD WIN APPROVAL FROM THE TURKISH PARLIAMENT.

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PAGE 02 ISTANB 01422 161414Z

3. THE JP PROVINCIAL LEADER WAS WORRIED, HOWEVER, ABOUT REPORTS THAT THE US CONGRESS MAY REFUSE TO ENDORSE THE DEFENSE AGREEMENT, AND STRESSED THAT REJECTIONS WOULD CAUSE LASTING DISAPPOINTMENT AMONG US'S FRIENDS IN TURKEY. UZUN LINKED THE CONGRESS'S ATTITUDE TO TURKEY'S INTERNAL PROBLEMS BY ADDING THAT REJECTION WOULD STRENGTHEN POSITION OF LEFTIST MINORITY WHICH WANTS AN "INDEPENDENT" TURKEY, FREE OF ANY TIES TO NATO. IN ADDITION, UZUN SAID "JOY" FELT BY AMERICA'S FRIENDS WOULD TURN TO ANGER AND FRUSTRATION IF CONGRESS FAILED

TO APPROVE THE AGREEMENT.

4. CONCERNING US-GREEK DEFENSE NEGOTIATIONS, UZUN NOTED THAT JUSTICE PARTY WAS NOT CONCERNED OVER THE AMOUNT OF AID TO BE GIVEN TO GREECE AS LONG AS NO EMBARGO WAS PLACED ON TURKEY. HE SAID THAT WHEREAS GREECE IS EXTREMELY BITTER TOWARD TURKEY AND WILL DO ANYTHING IT CAN TO ISOLATE HER, TURKEY IS SEEKING TO ESTABLISH PEACEFUL RELATIONSHIP WITH GREECE. UZUN HOPED THAT CONGRESS MIGHT CONSIDER US-GREEK AND US-TURKISH AGREEMENTS IN PARALLEL IN ORDER TO SHOW US IS NOT FAVORING EITHER COUNTRY.

5. COMMENT: UZUN'S COMMENTS ON THE US-TURKISH DEFENSE AGREEMENT REFLECT FAIRLY ACCURATELY THE FEELINGS OF OTHER PROMINENT PRO-AMERICAN TURKS WHO WERE SEVERELY DISAPPOINTED WHEN THE ARMS EMBARGO WAS IMPOSED. IF THE CONGRESS REJECTS THE AGREEMENT, IT IS WIDELY BELIEVED THERE WILL BE A STRONG ANTI-US REACTION, EVEN FROM OUR STANDEST SUPPORTERS. UZUN'S HIGH-MINDED APPROACH TOWARD THE US-GREEK DEFENSE AGREEMENT, HOWEVER, IS VERY LIKELY ATYPICAL. TURKISH POPULAR ATTITUDES ARE PROBABLY MORE ACCURATELY SUMMARIZED BY PROMINENT COLUMNIST ABDI IPEKCI, WHO COMPLAINS IN APRIL 16 ISSUE OF MILLIYET NEWSPAPER THAT GREECE WITH A SMALLER POPULATION AND ARMY WILL

RECEIVE 700 MILLION DOLLARS FOR FOUR BASES, WHILE TURKEY, WITH A POPULATION AND ARMY 3 TO 4 TIMES AS LARGE WILL BE GIVEN ONLY ONE BILLION DOLLARS FOR 26 INSTALLATIONS.
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